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Ionescu

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(54) **APPARATUS, AND ASSOCIATED METHOD,
FOR FORMING A SIGNAL FOR
COMMUNICATION UPON A FADING
CHANNEL**

(75) **Inventor:** **Dumitru Mihal Ionescu, Dallas, TX
(US)**

(73) **Assignee:** **Nokia Corporation, Espoo (FI)**

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Primary Examiner—Stephen Chin

Assistant Examiner—Dac V. Ha

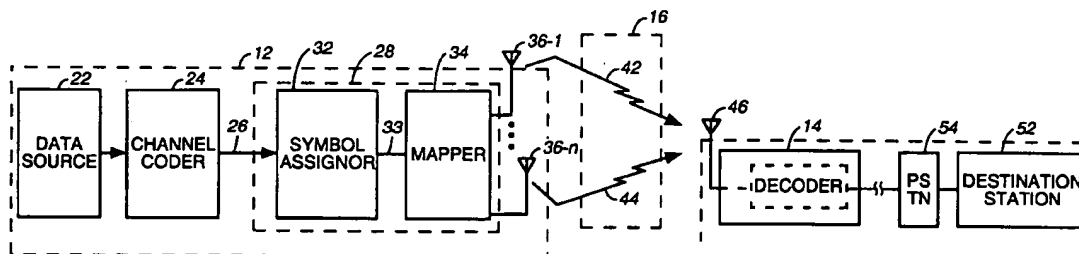
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Federico Fraccaroli

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A modulator, and an associated method, are described for use by a sending station, operable in a communication system, to communicate data to a receiving station upon a communication channel susceptible to fading. The modulator includes a mapper for mapping modulator output symbols to a set of antennas. The modulator ensures that an Orthogonality Condition is satisfied to impart maximum transmission diversity upon the data sent over the fading communication channel.

20 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

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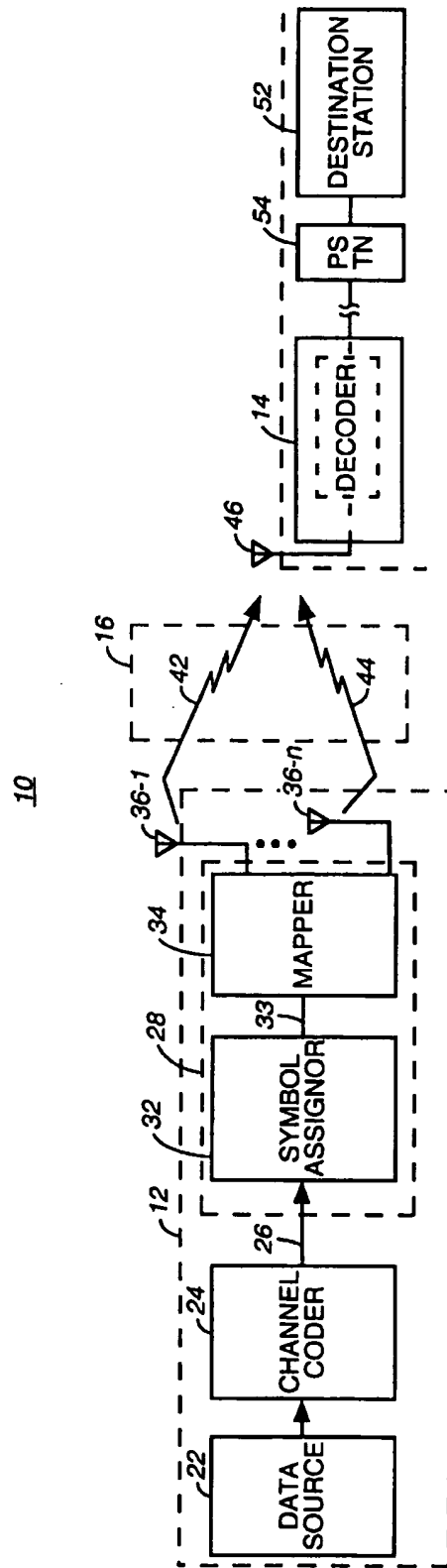
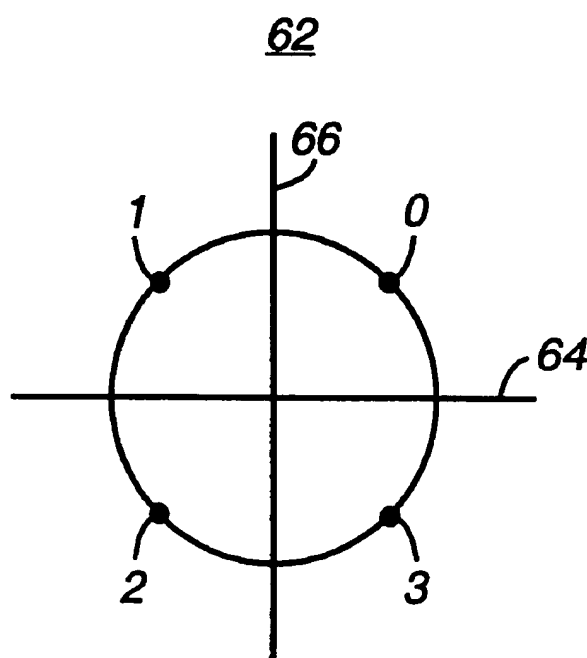


FIG. 1

**FIG. 2**

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APPARATUS, AND ASSOCIATED METHOD, FOR FORMING A SIGNAL FOR COMMUNICATION UPON A FADING CHANNEL

The present invention relates generally to the communication of data upon a channel susceptible to fading, such as a radio channel upon which data is transmitted during operation of a cellular communication system. More particularly, the present invention relates to apparatus, and an associated method, by which to increase the transmission diversity of the data communicated upon the channel, thereby to facilitate the recovery of the data once received at a receiving station.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The use of wireless communication systems has achieved wide popularity in recent years as a result of advancements in communication technologies. Multi-user, wireless communication systems of improved capabilities are regularly utilized by large numbers of consumers to communicate both voice and nonvoice information.

In a wireless communication system, a communication channel formed between a sending station and a receiving station is a radio channel defined upon a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. Because a radio channel forms a communication link between the sending and receiving stations, a wireline connection is not required to be formed between the sending and receiving stations to permit the communication of data between the stations. Communication by way of a wireless communication system is thereby permitted at, and between, locations at which the formation of a wireline connection would not be practical. Also, because a communication channel is formed of a radio channel, a radio communication system can be more economically installed as the infrastructure costs associated with a wireline communication system are significantly reduced.

A cellular communication system is exemplary of a wireless, multi-user radio communication system which has achieved wide levels of usage and which has been made possible due to advancements in communication technologies. A cellular communication system is typically formed of a plurality of fixed-site base stations installed throughout a geographical area which are coupled to a PSTN (public-switched, telephonic network). Portable transceivers, typically referred to as mobile stations, mobile terminals, or cellular phones, communicate with the base stations by way of radio links.

A cellular communication system efficiently utilizes the portion of the electromagnetic spectrum allocated thereto. Because of the spaced-apart positioning of the base stations, only relatively low-power signals are required to effectuate communications between a base station and a mobile station. As a result, the same frequencies can be reused at different locations throughout the geographical area. Thereby, communications can be effectuated between more than one set of sending and receiving stations concurrently at separate locations throughout the area encompassed by the cellular communication system.

In an ideal communication system, a communication signal, when received at a receiving station, is substantially identical to the corresponding communication signal when transmitted by a sending station. However, in a non-ideal communication system in which the communication signal must be transmitted upon a non-ideal communication

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channel, the signal, when received at the receiving station, is dissimilar to the corresponding communication signal when sent by the sending station. Distortion of the communication signal caused by transmission of the communication signal upon the communication channel causes such dissimilarities to result. If the distortion is significant, the informational content of the signal cannot be recovered at the receiving station.

The communication channel might be of characteristics which distort the value of the information bearing bits conveyed by a communication signal. Fading, such as that caused by multi-path transmission, or Raleigh fading, alters the communication signal during its transmission. Such distortion, if not corrected, reduces the communication quality levels in a communication session formed between a sending and receiving station.

Various techniques are utilized to overcome distortion introduced upon a communication signal as a result of transmission upon a non-ideal communication channel.

Time encoding of the communication signal, prior to its transmission, for instance, increases the redundancy of the transmitted signal. By increasing the time redundancy of the signal, the likelihood of the informational content of the signal being recoverable, once received at the receiving station, is increased. Increasing the time redundancy of the signal is sometimes referred to as creating time diversity.

Also, space diversity is sometimes also utilized, for transmission of communication signals. Typically, space diversity refers to the utilization of more than one transmit antenna transducers from which a communication signal is transmitted, thereby to provide spatial redundancy. The two antennas must be separated enough to insure that their signals fade in an uncorrelated fashion. The use of space diversity does not have to be separated from encoding in the time domain. When space and time diversity are used together, the encoding in the time domain should be done jointly, across the different antenna transducers, in order to efficiently combine the two forms of diversity.

Combinations of both space and time coding further enhances transmission diversity to combat signal fading caused by multi-path transmission. In any symbol epoch, exactly one symbol is transmitted from each transmit antenna. Each transmitted symbol is selected from the constellation of signal points that characterizes the modulator associated with a particular antenna. Note that the constellations pertaining to the different transmit antennas can be in general different, but in practice it may be preferable to have identical signal constellations for all transmit antennas. The particular constellation points selected to be sent over the different transmit antennas during an arbitrary (multiple) transmission are appropriately determined from the encoder's output symbols. Trellis encoding is sometimes used to effectuate space time coding. In that case, the selection of the constellation points, starting from the encoder's output symbols, is decided by a construction, referred to as a trellis, which describes all possible transitions between a given, finite number of states. The states are tuples of certain most recent symbols, e.g., bits, applied to the input of the trellis encoder. For example, if the input sequence consists of raw information bits, then the tuples reflect the most recent past history of the information bit sequence which is provided to the trellis encoder, and the trellis describes a transformation of an input sequence of bits, into an output sequence of symbols, referred to as a coded symbol sequence. Note that the coded symbols can be nonbinary, too. The trellis is represented by

successive columns, referred to as states, and transitions between states of successive columns are referred to as transitions. Each branch corresponds to a particular combination of new input symbols while in a given state. A mapper is utilized to map each coded symbol to a signal constellation point, thus determining the modulation parameters for a carrier signal.

In construction of the trellis and the mapper, a significant goal is to optimize the manner by which labels to trellis branches are assigned and to optimize the manner by which constellation points are assigned to the symbols used in the trellis branch labels. The optimality of the assignment is characterized in terms of a measure, referred to as a distance between two different codewords. The distance, ultimately, is determinative of the physically-meaningful, probability of a receiving station mistaking one codeword for another. The smaller the probability of a mistake, the better shall be the performance of a space-time code that is utilized in the effectuation of the communication. In-order to ensure as large of a distance as possible between two codewords, a succession of points selected, during transmission, from the signal constellation, as dictated by the trellis, must be carefully determined during initial construction of the trellis. That is to say, the minimum among all possible distances between pairs of transmitted codewords must be maximized. To do this, codes are selected whose trellises have as large as possible pair wise distances between codewords.

A set of all signals that possibly can be selected for transmission upon a multiple number of transmit antennas, within a meaningful time interval and according to all possible patterns of input symbols, forms a space-time code. Subsequent to constructing the space-time code, the space-time code is implemented as an encoder at a sending station and as a decoder at a receiving station. A significant problem is to determine a manner by which to efficiently select points from a given signal constellation, in such a manner as to optimize an overall performance of the transmission scheme. Performance is defined, for instance, in terms of a Bit Error Probability (BEP).

Conventionally, however, space-time coding is not optimized. This is because incorrect distance measures are utilized in trellis construction, in order to tentatively optimize the codeword separation by properly selecting points from the signal constellations used by the modulators associated with all of the transmit antennas. Note that these constellations can be in general different but in practice it may be preferable to have identical signal constellations for all transmit antennas. Conventionally, a metric suitable for space-time code design is not properly identified. Typically, a distance measure is selected based upon convenience and result in incomplete criteria of code design. The determinant criterion and the maximum rank criterion are conventionally the criteria utilized in space time code design. The former is nonconstructive and the latter only copes with the achievable level of transmit diversity.

Finally, note that while the selection of points from the signal constellations of the transmit antennas can be done via a trellis, this is not the only possibility.

If a manner could be provided by which to better jointly encode across the multiple transmit antennas, improved communication quality in a communication system in which data must be communicated upon a channel susceptible to fading would result.

It is in light of this background information related to communication of data upon a channel susceptible to fading that the significant improvements of the present invention have evolved.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention, accordingly, advantageously provides apparatus, and an associated method, by which to increase the transmission diversity of data communicated upon a communication channel susceptible to fading. By increasing the transmission diversity of the data, recovery of the data, once received at a receiving station, is facilitated.

In one aspect of the present invention, a modulator is provided for a sending station operable to send a communication signal representative of the data to be communicated. The modulator is constructed in such a manner as to constrain a sequence of transmitted constellation points to behave in a desired fashion. Through operation of an embodiment of the present invention, optimal space-time codes are determinable, when optimal space-time codes exist. And, if optimal space-time codes do not exist, a suboptimal space-time code is determinable. Through such determination, the receiving station is best able to recover the informational content of a communication signal received thereat.

In operation, a natural distance measure is first identified between two codewords and thereafter is used to characterize the set of all codeword difference matrices responsive thereto. For any arbitrary pair of codewords, a codeword difference matrix D is formed. The difference matrix is formed by performing a component-wise difference between the two codewords and arranging the results in rows and columns; for example, the columns correspond to the transmit antennas and the rows to the time epochs. In an embodiment in which two antenna transducers are used to provide space diversity, the results are arranged in two columns, one column for each of the antenna transducers. And, the distance criterion used to characterize the set of all codeword difference matrices maximizes the minimum distance between any two codewords amongst all of the possible pairs of codewords. The natural definition of the square of the distance between any two codewords is the sum of all eigenvalues of a square matrix formed of the product of the Hermitian of a code difference matrix multiplied together with the code difference matrix. The result is a true distance measure that verifies all of the axioms of a metric. Additionally, the new distance squared exhibits an additive property which permits simplification of the computation of a distance spectrum. And, the distance between any two codewords is maximized if and only if the resultant product matrix is diagonal and its eigenvalues are equal and as large as possible. That is to say, the distance between the codewords is maximized if the resultant product matrix is diagonal and all diagonal elements of the resultant product matrix are equal. The codes that satisfy these criteria are optimal, as they achieve minimal pairwise (codeword) error probability on the average, and thereby lower the possible average BEP. If these conditions are impossible to be met for a particular signal constellation and a particular number of transmit antennas, the best suboptimal codes are those for which the resultant product matrix is as close to diagonal as possible and the diagonal element of such metric are as close to each other in value as possible.

In one implementation, a modulator is provided for a transmitter portion of a mobile station operable in a cellular communication system. Analogous structure also forms portions of transmitter circuitry of a base station operable in a cellular communication system. The modulator is operable to map encoder output symbols applied to the modulator into modulator output symbols wherein the modulator output symbols form codewords. When a code difference matrix,

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formed between any arbitrary two codematrix, is multiplied on the left by its Hermitian, the product matrix is diagonal and all its diagonal elements are equal, thereby ensuring that the distance between any two codewords is made as large as possible.

In these and other aspects, therefore, a modulator, and an associated method, is provided for a sending station operable in a radio communication system in which the sending station is operable to send data upon a communication channel susceptible to fading to a receiving station. The modulator includes a mapper coupled to receive a group of encoder output symbols in which the encoder output symbols are encoded representations of the data to be communicated upon the communication channel. The mapper maps the group of encoder output symbols to at least a first sequence of modulator input symbols. The at least first sequence of modulator output symbols is formed of at least one symbol. And, the at least first sequence of modulator output symbols forms a codeword such that a Hermitian of a difference matrix formed between an arbitrary pair of codewords multiplied by the difference matrix forms a diagonal product matrix having all diagonal elements equal to each other.

A more complete appreciation of the present invention and the scope thereof can be obtained from the accompanying drawings which are briefly summarized below, the following detailed description of the presently-preferred embodiments of the invention, and the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a functional block diagram of a communication system in which an embodiment of the present invention is operable.

FIG. 2 illustrates a graphical representation of a constellation set into which encoded symbols are assigned by a symbol assignor which forms a portion of the communication system shown in FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring first to FIG. 1, a communication system, shown generally at 10, is operable to communicate data between a sending station 12 and a receiving station 14 by way of a communication channel 16. The sending station uses at least one transmit antenna, in such a manner as to insure that the signals from all transmit antennas are mutually uncorrelated. Likewise, the receiving station uses at least one receive antenna. The communication channel is susceptible to fading, or somehow requires channel encoding across all transmit antennas. A wireless channel with multipath propagation is sometimes referred to as a fading channel.

The communication system 10 is representative of a cellular communication system in which, for example, the sending station 12 forms the transmit portion of a mobile station and the receiving station 14 forms the receive portion of a base station system. While the following description of the exemplary implementation shall be carried out with respect to an implementation in which the sending station 12 forms the transmit portion of a mobile station and the receiving station 14 forms the receive portion of a base station system, the sending and receiving stations 12 and 14 are analogously also representative of the transmit and receive portions, respectively, of the base station system and mobile stations operable in a cellular communication system. The following description, therefore, could similarly instead be carried out with respect to such operation. And,

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the sending and receiving stations are also representative of the sending and receiving stations operable in other types of communication systems, both wireline and non-wireline in which communication is realized over one or more parallel uncorrelated channels. An embodiment of the present invention is analogously also operable in such other types of communication systems.

The sending station 12 is here shown to include a data source 22 which sources the data which is to be communicated by the sending station to the receiving station. The data source, for instance, comprises voice data generated by a user of the mobile station of which the sending station is a part. The data source 22 is also representative of nonvoice data, such as that generated by a processing device. When a voice signal forms the data generated by the data source, appropriate processing circuitry, e.g., for source encoding, is utilized to convert the voice signal into digital form.

Data generated by the data source 22 is applied to a channel coder 24. The channel coder is operable to encode the data applied thereto according to a selected encoding scheme. The encoding scheme encodes the data applied thereto in order to increase the information redundancy, thereby to create time diversity. The channel coder generates encoder output symbols on the line 26. Each encoder output symbol formed by the channel coder occupies a time period, herein referred to as the (channel) encoder output symbol epoch.

The encoder output symbols are applied to a modulator 28, here shown to include a symbol assignor 32 and a mapper 34. After applying one or more encoder output symbols to the symbol assignor, exactly one constellation point is selected, for simultaneous transmission, from each of the signal constellations pertaining to all of the transmit antennas. The selection is indicated via indices that point to the appropriate modulation parameter values, according to the corresponding modulation schemes used by all of the transmit antennas. In the exemplary implementation, a QPSK (quaternary phase shift keying) modulation scheme is utilized, and the correct number of encoder output symbols are assigned, per transmission, to one of four constellation points defined in the QPSK constellation.

The modulator symbols to which the encoder output symbols are assigned are applied to the mapper 34. The mapper 34 is operable, pursuant to an embodiment of the present invention, to map the symbols applied thereto to a set of one or more antenna transducers 36. In the implementation shown in the figure, the set of antenna transducers includes n antenna transducers 36-1 through 36-n. The mapper 34 is operable to map selected ones of the symbols applied thereto through corresponding selected ones of the antenna transducers 36-1 through 36-n. Conventional sending-station circuitry positioned between the modulator 28 and the antenna transducers, such as amplification elements and up-conversion elements, are not shown in the figure, for purposes of simplicity.

Each antenna transducer 36-1 through 36-L, is operable to transduce, into electromagnetic form, the symbols provided thereto, thereby to transmit the symbols upon the communication channel to the receiving station 14. Paths 42 and 43 are illustrated in the figure, pertaining to the antenna transducer 36-1. Such paths are representative of multiple paths conveying the electromagnetic signals transmitted to the receiving station. Because of the multiple, distinct, transmission paths that convey the communication signals, the signal from each antenna transducer is susceptible to fading. The fading experienced by the signals from different antenna

transducers lacks mutual correlation; that is to say, the fading processes affecting the signals from different antenna transducers are uncorrelated with one another.

The signals transmitted upon the paths 42 and 44 are sensed by an antenna transducer 46 which forms a portion of the receiving station 14. In the exemplary implementation, a single antenna transducer is utilized. The receiving station, in an alternate implementation, includes more than one antenna transducer. The antenna transducer is operable to convert the electromagnetic signals received thereat into electrical form and to provide the electrical signals to receiver circuitry of the receive portion of the receiving station. The receive circuitry includes a decoder 48 which is operable to decode symbols applied thereto, in a manner operable generally reverse to that of the channel coder 24. Additional circuitry of the receiving station is not separately shown and is conventional in nature. In an implementation in which the receiving station 14 forms the receive portion of a base station system, once the signal is operated upon by the receiving station 14, representative signals are provided to a destination station 52, here by way of a PSTN (public-switched, telephonic network) 54.

In operation, the encoder output symbols, once assigned by the symbol assignor 32, are applied by way of the line 33 to the mapper 34. The mapper is operable to verify an Orthogonality Condition (OC) of the encoder output symbols to ensure that both the transmission, or space, diversity and the time diversity, derived from encoding across all transmit antennas, are optimized jointly. A codeword, c , is defined to be formed symbols applied to the mapper 34 and is represented mathematically as follows:

$$c = [c_k^{(1)} c_k^{(2)} \dots c_k^{(L_t)} c_{k+1}^{(1)} c_{k+1}^{(2)} \dots c_{k+1}^{(L_t)} \dots c_{k+l-1}^{(1)} c_{k+l-1}^{(2)} \dots c_{k+l-1}^{(L_t)}]^T \\ = [c_k^T, \dots, c_{k+l-1}^T]^T$$

wherein:

L_t is the number of antenna transducers 36-1 through 36- L_t , i.e., the number of antenna transducers of which the set of antenna transducers 36 is formed;

l is the length of a block of modulator symbol epochs over which encoding is performed jointly across all of the transmit antennas;

k is a discrete time instant at which a block of jointly encoded (across all transmit antennas) modulator output symbols commence; and

$c_k^{(i)}$ is the complex symbol from the complex signal constellation pertaining to the i -th antenna transducer, assigned by the symbol assignor 32 to be transmitted at time instant k over antenna transducer i .

Herein, we assume $l \geq L_t$; otherwise the product $D_{ec}^H D_{ec}$ discussed in the sequel should be replaced by $D_{ec} D_{ec}^H$.

The codeword c is also represented in matrix form as a code-matrix $D_{c,k}$ as follows:

$$D_{c,k} = \begin{bmatrix} c_k^{(1)} & c_k^{(2)} & \dots & c_k^{(L_t)} \\ c_{k+1}^{(1)} & c_{k+1}^{(2)} & \dots & c_{k+1}^{(L_t)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{k+l-1}^{(1)} & c_{k+l-1}^{(2)} & \dots & c_{k+l-1}^{(L_t)} \end{bmatrix}$$

wherein the elements are defined as above.

Each column of the matrix indicates complex symbols applied to a separate antenna. That is to say, the first column indicates complex symbols applied to a first antenna, the

second column indicates complex symbols applied to a second antenna, and the L_t th column indicates symbols applied to the L_t th antenna. And, as indicated by the matrix $k+l-1$ symbols are applied to each antenna during a jointly encoded block of modulation symbols. The matrix shown above is the code-matrix representation of a codeword c . A corresponding code-matrix can be found to represent another codeword, such as codeword e . Also, a codeword difference matrix D_{ec} is formed by taking a component-wise difference between the codematrixes D_e and D_c in which the difference matrix is also represented by columns and rows of complex symbol, also one column per antenna transducer.

The Orthogonality Condition is satisfied if for all pairs of codewords c, e , the Hermitian D_{ec}^H of the code difference matrix D_{ec} , multiplied on the right by the code difference matrix D_{ec} itself, forms a product matrix which is diagonal, with all its diagonal elements being equal. When this Orthogonality Condition is satisfied, the rank of D_{ec} is maximal, thereby ensuring maximization of the transmit diversity level imparted on the transmitted signals altogether.

One way to guarantee the OC over the whole codeword/frame length of l modulator (or channel) symbol time epochs is by implementing it in a piecewise manner, i.e., over $l' < l$ (channel) symbol time epochs at one time. If we choose l' such that l' divides L_t , then the $l' \times L_t$ matrix D_{ec} can be viewed as a block, $(L_t/l') \times 1$ matrix [or tensor, or matrix whose components are $l' \times L_t$ (sub)matrices], the matrix multiplication $D_{ec}^H D_{ec}$ can be performed block wise and a sufficient condition for D_{ec} to fully comply with the OC can be easily shown to be that the $l' \times L_t$ submatrices of D_{ec} do.

Second, the implementation of the OC, over $l' < l$ (channel) symbol time epochs at one time, can be realized by using the Radon-Hurwitz construction developed as a solution to the Radon-Hurwitz problem. When a Radon-Hurwitz transform of size $l' \times L_t$ exists, the $l' \times L_t$ submatrices of the $l' \times L_t$ matrix D_{ec} will be Radon-Hurwitz constructions, each of size $l' \times L_t$. When $l' = L_t$ and the constellations are complex, square Radon-Hurwitz constructions exist only for $l' = L_t = 2, 4$.

Non-square constructions are also possible. However, some non-square constructions may result in modulator rates smaller than the maximum rate achievable simultaneously with full diversity. The Radon-Hurwitz transformation facilitates the construction of a particular type of space-time codes for two transmit antennas ($L_t = 2$). However, it remains just a particular means of implementing the OC, which proves to be, along with the claims to follow, more general than the particular instances of a space time code obtained via the above mentioned transformation. When $l' > L_t$, l' is a multiple of L_t and a Radon Hurwitz construction exists for size $L_t \times L_t$, then the $l' \times L_t$ Radon Hurwitz submatrix construction can be realized by an extension of the $L_t \times L_t$ construction. Other choices, as well as modulator rate tradeoffs, are possible and even search methods can be used to find particular nonsquare constructions. The piecewise implementation of the OC for $L_t = 2$ and $l' = 2$, i.e., via the 2×2 complex, square submatrix, Radon-Hurwitz construction is possible.

The piecewise implementation of the OC also relaxes the assumption made in its derivation, i.e., that fading be constant over the entire codeword/frame length of l time epochs. Now constant fading coefficients are needed only over $l' < l$ epochs instead of l time epochs, e.g., for $l' = 2$ the fading must be constant only over two adjacent transmissions.

The set of all codematrixes compliant with the OC is regarded to be a super signal constellation which, in turn,

describes a generalized, or enhanced, modulator. This modulator guarantees maximum diversity, as the maximum rate (in bits/s/Hz) that can be achieved simultaneously with maximum transmit diversity, exhibits an inherent coding gain in a certain sense, and can be regarded as a signal constellation of higher dimensionality.

The relevant distance between codematrices is still the Euclidian distance, rather than the so-called product distance (in fact a pseudo-distance). Now the isomorphism between codematrices and vectors of dimension $l \times L$, and the fact that the Euclidian distance between code matrices is preserved by the isomorphism can be used. The code design must guarantee that during any transition through the trellis the points that can be possibly selected are maximally separated. The simple case $L=2$ and $l=2$ serves also as an example for the realizability of the OC.

In the exemplary implementation shown in FIG. 1, the sending station includes two antenna transducers 36 and the symbol assignor 32 is operable pursuant to a QPSK modulation scheme.

We stress that the construction to follow is just a particular means of implementing the OC, which is more general as a method. We were able to prove that the OC characterizes optimality for space time coding in a general sense. Apart from proving the realizability of the OC, the following construction describes only a particular embodiment.

FIG. 2 illustrates the signal constellation for a QPSK modulator, with 62 illustrating the complex values used in a QPSK modulation scheme. Four symbols, identified by 0, 1, 2, and 3, are possible symbol points defined upon a normalized, unit circle 64 defined with respect to the real and imaginary axes 66 and 68. During each transmission and for each transmit antenna, the symbol assignor 32 of the modulator 28 shown in FIG. 1 assigns encoder output symbols to one of the symbols 0-3 of the signal constellation set.

Codes are to satisfy the property that $D_{ec}^H D_{ec}$ is a diagonal matrix with equal non-zero values on the diagonal for any two codematrices c and e . This condition also ensures that the codeword difference matrix is of full rank (2 in this case).

The fact that the OC is realizable is quickly illustrated by use of the Radon-Hurwitz transform, via the submatrix construction:

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} C_n & C_{n+1} \\ -C_{n+1}^* & C_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

That is, if in the case of one transmit antenna, an appropriate number of encoder output symbols would require that C_n, C_{n+1} be transmitted in two consecutive symbol epochs, then, in the two antenna case, a first antenna 36-1 will transmit C_n and $-C_{n+1}^*$ over two consecutive symbol epochs, and a second antenna 36-2 will transmit C_{n+1} , and C_n^* .

In this manner, codewords are formed over sub-frame lengths such that any two codewords in the code set satisfy the OC mentioned above, over the whole frame length. In this example, the sub-frame length is of a value 2. It can be shown that if the OC is satisfied over sub-frame lengths, then a code set regarded over the entire frame length, based on this design, will also satisfy the OC.

Following the above, codewords can now be looked at in two-epoch segments; equivalently, codematrices can be looked at in 2×2 submatrix blocks corresponding to two antennas and two time epochs, where each element of any code matrix would correspond to a point in a QPSK con-

stellation. Hence, a total of 444^4 (≈ 256) codewords are possible in general. But all of these codewords do not satisfy the OC, while simultaneously attaining the maximum diversity level of two. Only 16 codewords (or codematrices) satisfy this property (it is important to note that the set is not unique). A particular set of 16 codewords (out of the many possible) is chosen to form the set S of codewords. It can be easily verified that, by construction, S satisfies the OC for any two codematrices. The elements of S shall be referred to as C_0, C_1, \dots, C_{15} or simply by the subscripts when the context does not present any ambiguity. Also, note that the non-zero diagonal elements of $D_{ec}^H D_{ec}$ are also the eigenvalues of the matrix $D_{ec}^H D_{ec}$. Further, the sum of these eigenvalues is equal to the square of the Euclidian distance between the two codewords.

Thereby, a manner is provided by which to ensure best that the transmission of the signals generated during operation of the sending station 12 exhibits maximum transmit diversity in fading. The maximum diversity better ensures that the information, when received at the receiving station 14, is recoverable.

The preferred descriptions are of preferred examples for implementing the invention, and the scope of the invention should not necessarily be limited by this description. The scope of the present invention is defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a radio communication system having a sending station and a receiving station connected by way of a communication channel susceptible to fading, the sending station for sending data upon the communication channel to the receiving station, an improvement of a modulator for the sending station, said modulator comprising:

a mapper coupled to receive a group of encoder output symbols, the encoder output symbols encoded representations of the data to be communicated upon the communication channel, said mapper for mapping the group of encoder output symbols to at least a first sequence of modulator output symbols, the at least first sequence formed of at least one symbol, and the at least first sequence forming a codeword, such that a Hermitian of a difference matrix formed between an arbitrary pair of codewords multiplied by the difference matrix forms a diagonal product matrix having a diagonal with all diagonal elements of the diagonal equal to each other.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the sending station comprises at least a first antenna transducer coupled to said mapper and wherein the at least first sequence of the modulator output symbols formed by said mapper is applied to the at least the first antenna transducer to be transduced therefrom.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the at least the first antenna transducer comprises the first antenna transducer and at least a second antenna transducer, wherein the at least the first sequence of the modulator output symbols formed by said mapper comprises the first sequence of the modulator output symbols and at least a second sequence of the modulator output symbols, and wherein the first sequence of the modulator output signals is applied to the first antenna transducer and the at least the second sequence of the modulator output signals is applied to the at least the second antenna transducer.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the at least first sequence of modulator output symbols formed by said mapper is formed of a first plurality of symbols.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the at least the first sequence comprises a plurality of sequences, each formed of

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the first plurality of symbols, the plurality of sequences arranged to form columns of a code matrix, individual ones of the symbols of the first plurality of symbols of which each of the plurality of sequences is formed defining rows of the code matrix, and wherein the codeword is formed of successive rows of the code matrix concatenated together.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the arbitrary pair of codewords of which the difference matrix is formed comprises a first codeword formed responsive to a first group of encoder output symbols applied to said mapper and a second codeword formed responsive to a second group of encoder output symbols applied to said mapper.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the difference matrix is formed of a plurality of submatrices, each submatrix formed by a Radon-Hurwitz construction.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein each Radon-Hurwitz construction is formed of a square Radon-Hurwitz construction.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein each square Radon-Hurwitz construction is formed of a two-by-two submatrix.

10. In the radio communication system of claim 1, a further improvement of apparatus for the receiving station of an estimator for estimating, responsive to reception at the receiving station of a signal representative of the at least the first sequence of modulator output signals, values of the first sequence of modulator output symbols, estimates formed by said estimator by distance metric calculations.

11. In a method for communicating data in a communication system between a sending station and a receiving station connected by way of a communication channel susceptible to fading, an improvement of a method for modulating a group of encoder output symbols, the group of encoder output symbols encoded representations of the data to be communicated upon the communication channel, said method comprising:

mapping the group of encoder output symbols to at least a first sequence of modulator output symbols, the at least first sequence of the modulator output symbols formed of at least one symbol and the at least first sequence forming a codeword such that a Hermitian of a difference matrix formed between an arbitrary number of codewords multiplied by the difference matrix forms a diagonal product matrix having a diagonal with all diagonal elements of the diagonal equal to each other.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the sending station comprises at least a first antenna transducer and wherein said method comprises the additional operation of applying the at least the first sequence of modulator output symbols to the at least the first antenna transducer to be transduced therefrom.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the at least the first antenna transducer comprises the first antenna transducer and at least a second antenna transducer, wherein the at least the first sequence of modulator output symbols comprises

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the first sequence of the modulator output symbols and at least a second sequence of the modulator output symbols, and wherein said operation of applying comprises applying the first sequence of the modulator output symbols to the first antenna transducer and applying the at least second sequence of the modulator output symbols to the at least the second antenna transducer.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein each of the at least first sequence of the modulator output symbols formed during said operation of mapping is formed of a first plurality of symbols.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the at least the first sequence of modulator output symbols formed during said operation of mapping comprises a plurality of sequences, each formed of the first plurality of symbols, the plurality of sequences arranged to form columns of a code matrix, individual ones of the symbols of the first plurality of symbols of which each of the plurality of sequences is formed defining rows of the code matrix and wherein the codeword is formed of successive rows of the code matrix concatenated together.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the arbitrary pair of codewords of which the difference matrix is formed during said operation of mapping is formed comprises a first codeword formed responsive to a first group of encoder output symbols and a second codeword formed responsive to a second group of encoder output symbols.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the difference matrix is formed of a plurality of submatrices, each submatrix formed of a Radon-Hurwitz construction.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein each Radon-Hurwitz construction is formed of a square Radon-Hurwitz construction.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein each square Radon-Hurwitz construction is formed of a two-by-two submatrix.

20. Apparatus for a sending station operable in a communication system to communicate data to a receiving station on a channel susceptible to fading, said apparatus comprising:

an encoder coupled to receive digital representations of the data, said encoder for forming encoder output symbols, the encoder output symbols encoded representations of the data; and

a mapper coupled to receive the group of encoder output symbols, said mapper for mapping the group of encoder output symbols to at least a first sequence of modulator output symbols, the at least first sequence formed of at least one symbol, and the at least first sequence forming a codeword, such that a Hermitian of a difference matrix formed between an arbitrary pair of codewords multiplied by the difference matrix forms a diagonal product matrix having a diagonal with all diagonal elements of the diagonal equal to each other.

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